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14 July 1954

Honor Awards

1. In accordance with the policy of CIA to grant Honor Awards for intelligence service to persons who perform acts of valor or who make highly significant contributions to national intelligence, the Director has approved a series of Honor Awards for CIA personnel as follows:

a. Distinguished Intelligence Cross

The Distinguished Intelligence Cross may be awarded only to a person officially affiliated with CIA for a voluntary act or series of acts of heroism, involving the acceptance of existing dangers with conspicuous fortitude and exemplary courage.

b. Distinguished Intelligence Medal

The Distinguished Intelligence Medal may be awarded only to a person officially affiliated with CIA for performance of outstanding services or for achievement of a distinctively exceptional nature in a duty of responsibility, the results of which constitute a major contribution to the missions of the Central Intelligence Agency.

c. Intelligence Star

The Intelligence Star may be awarded only to a person officially affiliated with CIA for an act or acts of heroism performed in the face of existing dangers with praiseworthy fortitude and exemplary courage.

d. Intelligence Medal of Merit

The Intelligence Medal of Merit may be awarded only to a person officially affiliated with CIA for the performance of meritorious services, or for achievement, above normal duties requiring initiative and extra effort which have contributed to the accomplishment of the missions of the Central Intelligence Agency.

2. The CIA Honor Awards referred to above are, of course, in addition to two other medals which are available to the Director for award to CIA personnel.

a. National Security Medal

The National Security Medal may be awarded to any person for distinguished achievement in the field of intelligence relating to the National Security; for exceptionally meritorious service performed in a position of high responsibility; or for an act of valor requiring personal courage of a high degree and complete disregard of personal safety.

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b. Medal of Freedom

(1) The Medal of Freedom may be awarded to any person who has performed a meritorious act or service which

(a) has aided the United States in the prosecution of a war against an enemy or enemies,

(b) has aided any nation engaged with the United States in the prosecution of a war against a common enemy or enemies, or

(c) during any period of national emergency declared by the President or the Congress to exist, has furthered the interests of the security of the United States or of any nation allied or associated with the United States during such period, and for which act or service the award of any other United States medal or decoration is considered inappropriate.

(d) under special circumstances, and without regard to the existence of a state of war or national emergency, is in the interests of the security of the United States.

(2) The Medal of Freedom may not be awarded to a citizen of the United States for any act or service performed within the continental limits of this country nor to a member of the Armed Forces of the country.

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3. Regulation [REDACTED] establish the CIA Honor Awards Board and briefly outline the procedure for handling recommendations for the six awards to which reference is made. Regulations, both headquarters and field, are being revised or issued to reflect recent policy and procedural decisions. In the meantime, the mechanism for processing recommendations for Honor Awards exists.

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